

What Is It?

The Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) is a measure administered triennially to Iowa's 6th, 8th, and 11th grade students to determine their attitudes and behaviors related to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and violent and disruptive behavior (ATOD). The survey also includes information on the students' perceptions of the factors in their lives that either put them at risk for problem behavior or that protect them from developing such behavior. Among the protective factors addressed are students' perceptions of the culture and climate of their schools.

The IYS has been administered triennially since the 1980s. Changes in its form and scope are reflective of changes in our needs for the information it yields, in laws that govern its administration, and in new knowledge in the field of prevention science.

The most recent change in the IYS occurred in 1999, when oversight for administration was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Health and the effort became collaborative. At that time, the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation redesigned the instrument. The 2002 survey will represent the collaborative efforts of the Iowa Departments of Public Health, Education, Human Rights, and Iowa Work Force Development.

In order to ensure that the survey results truly represent the populations of students in a school district, community, region, or the state, and to permit these entities to examine results over time and against other comparable entities, the survey is administered on a census basis. This means surveying all students at the designated grade levels and, to the extent possible, all school districts in the state. Whenever a district does not participate, that district must rely on county results for information, which may or may not represent its own student population.

Results are disaggregated in multiple ways to meet the multiple needs of educators and community professionals: school districts, AEAs, judicial districts, de-categorization regions, and prevention regions.

What's New in 2002?

Contents of the survey and the grade levels for its administration will NOT be changed in 2002. This will permit comparisons between the data for 2002 with the data obtained in 1999.

A new report format, in addition to the one presenting raw data only, will facilitate interpretation of the data at the local level.

Why Do It?

- To create a valid and reliable source of data for school districts and their communities about students' attitudes and behaviors related to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, violent and disruptive behavior, and the risk and protective factors that affect these attitudes and behaviors.
- To collect data for identifying and prioritizing needs of students in the area of healthy personal-social development for a school district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) and for community plans.
- To obtain data that can be used for planning: 1) to address a district's Student Learning Goals, 2) to develop measurable Long Range and Annual Improvement Goals and to select strategies to meeting those goals.
- To monitor, across time, the impact of your district's and community's programs and services on the student needs they are intended to address and to inform decisions about what programs and strategies are working, need modifying, or need to be changed.
- To determine how a district's student population compares to that of others in its county, AEA, and the state, in the areas measured by the IYS.
- To have a meaningful source of information about students that can serve as a basis for conversation among educators, students, parents, school board members, community agency professionals, and the general public.

Is Our District Required to Participate?

Participation is voluntary. However, to meet reporting requirements for a variety of federal and state programs and funding streams, school districts and community agencies are required to report reliable, valid incidence and prevalence figures on the attitudes and behaviors related to ATOD and other areas of personal-social development. The IYS will usually fulfill that requirement at minimal cost to a district. In addition, the IYS can provide valuable information for delivery of cost-effective programming.

What Must Our District Do?

- Complete and return a form (to be provided at a later date) of your district's interest in participating in IYS 2002.
- Identify a district coordinator of IYS activities and ensure that he/she receives training in administration provided by participating state agencies.
- Connect with community partners who use the data from the IYS and seek their assistance in helping you with the logistics of survey administration.
- Send a letter by U.S. mail informing parents of 6th, 8th and 11th grade students of the students' pending participation in the IYS.
- Identify a one-hour period when students will be administered the survey.
- Administer the survey.
- Collect the surveys and send them to the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Will There Be a Cost to Our District?

There is no cost to districts for survey protocols, data analysis, and reports of results. The only costs will be those incurred in mailing parent notification letters, in postage for returning protocols for analysis, and in staff time to administer the surveys. Any expenses incurred may be covered by funds such as those from Safe and Drug-Free Schools and *Success4*.

Timeline

March 29, 2002

Submission of *Commitment to Participate* to The Higher Plain
FAX: 319-354-5345

April-June, 2002

Training for LEA coordinators
in administration of the survey

1st week in September, 2002

Letter to parents mailed

September 23 to October 4, 2002

Window for administration
of survey

October 18, 2002

Submission of completed surveys
to the Iowa Department of Public
Health, Division of Health,
Promotion, Prevention, and
Addictive Behaviors

Spring 2003

Reports returned to districts

**For information pertaining to
participation, training, and survey
administration, contact:**

Ron Mirr
The Higher Plain
319-354-5606

or

Visit the Iowa Youth Survey Website at:

[http://www.state.ia.us/educate/
ecese/cfcs/iys/index.html](http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/cfcs/iys/index.html)

Sponsoring Agencies

Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Health Promotion,
Prevention, and Addictive Behaviors

Iowa Department of Education
Division of Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education

Iowa Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile
Justice Planning

Governor's Office on
Drug Control Policy

Iowa Workforce Development

Contact:

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Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Health Promotion,
Prevention, and Addictive Behaviors
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Iowa Youth Survey 2002



Iowa Department of Education
Division of Early Childhood, Elementary
and Secondary Education

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